

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 are cancelled.

15. (NEW) A micro vial assembly for performing microwave-assisted chemical reactions on small volumes, the assemble comprising:

- a micro-wave transparent reaction vessel having an open upper end and a closed bottom end;
- a cap having a through hole, and a sealing diaphragm, wherein a sleeve is formed with a through hole, the vessel extending axially through the sleeve and the cap securing the vessel to the sleeve while clamping, the diaphragm for sealing the open upper end of the vessel, the open upper end of the vessel being formed with a widening portion, the widening portion being received in a corresponding recess formed in an end plane of the sleeve, the recess providing a seat for the widening portion in the open upper end of the vessel.

16. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 15, wherein the upper end of the sleeve is formed circumferentially for engagement with the cap, the sleeve having a first diameter portion running from the upper end to meet a reduced diameter portion in the lower end of the sleeve.

17. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 16, wherein the portion of reduced diameter in the lower end of the sleeve is a truncated cone.

18. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 15, wherein the widening portion of the vessel and the seat in the end plane of the sleeve are both conical in shape.

19. (NEW) The micro veal assembly of claim 15, wherein the open end of the vessel is defined by a rim protruding above the upper end of the sleeve, when the vessel is supported in the sleeve, the rim being dimensioned to be depressed in the lower side of the diaphragm.

20. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 19, wherein the rim has an inner perimeter extending transversely to the diaphragm, sealing the open end of the vessel.

21. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 20, wherein the inner perimeter of the rim defines a portion of the vessel cavity having a first radius, said first radius portion meeting a second portion, the reducing radius portion smoothly transforming into a portion of continuous radius defining a reaction chamber of the vessel cavity.

22. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 15, wherein a bottom of the vessel is formed through a radial compression of the vessel, located above the terminal end of the vessel.

23. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 15, wherein the vessel has an inner volume including a head-space volume which is less than 20 times that of the smallest reaction mixture volume contained in the vessel.

24. (NEW) The micro vial assembly of claim 15, wherein the vessel is dimensioned for performing microwave-assisted chemical reactions on small volumes of 500 μ l or less.

25. (NEW) A system for performing microwave-assisted chemical reactions on small reaction mixture volumes, comprising a micro vial assembly according to claim 15.

26. (NEW) The system of claim 25, wherein the outer perimeter of the sleeve is dimensioned for bridging the radial distance between a wall of the vessel and an entrance diameter, of a microwave cavity in the system.

27. (NEW) The use of a micro vial assembly according to claim 15 for performing microwave-assisted chemical reactions, in particular microwave-assisted organic synthesis reactions.

28. (NEW) The use of a system according to claim 25 for performing microwave-assisted chemical reactions, in particular microwave-assisted organic synthesis reactions.